

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the General Assembly
From: Iowa Judicial Branch
Re: Judicial Salary Rates and Appropriation
Date: 12/15/2016

This bill provides a 5% salary increase for all judges and magistrates, effective July 1, 2017.

The Governor's proposed salary bill in the 2015 legislative session (SSB1290) included a 5% salary increase for all judges and magistrates. The 5% salary increase provided for in this bill reflects the increase proposed by the Governor.

Prior to January 3, 2014, Iowa judges and magistrates had not received a salary increase since July 1, 2008. Between FY 2008 and 2017, the majority of Iowa state employees received increases in their base pay of at least 13%.

Stagnant judicial salaries continue to be a major factor in the decline of interest in judicial vacancies. In general, there has been a significant decline in the number of applicants for judicial vacancies; overall, there has been a reduction in the diversity of applicant pools, as there have been fewer private practicing attorneys applying judicial vacancies.